

THE WORLD'S BEST WEEKLY IN THE HEART OF THE
WORLD'S LARGEST OILFIELD

PEMBINA

NEWS ADVERTISER

and The Western Weekly Supplement

10¢
PER COPY

SERVING: DRAYTON VALLEY, VIOLLET GROVE, LODGEPOLE, HIGHBURY, EASTFORD, ROCKY
RAPIDS, MOON LAKE, FORD VALLEY, TOMAHAWK, BERRYMORE, LINDALE, GRAYWOOD,
ALMA, ROCK LAKE, WOOD CREEK, ALMA PLATS, AND BRETTON.

Vol. 9, No. 1, JANUARY 3, 1964. Published, Publisher: Mrs. J. D. Drayton Valley, Alta.

Town Of Drayton Valley

THE TOWN OF DRAYTON VALLEY PROGRESS REPORT - 1963

ACCOUNT	1961	1962	1963
Building Permits	\$581,435	\$604,687	\$635,631
Tax Collections	203,309	200,727	247,880
Trail Licenses	21,399	10,740	16,035.05
Civic Rentals	4,326	4,117	5,280
Water Sewer Charges	61,818	62,742	64,506
Births	542		509
Marriages	34	40	37
Deaths	13	25	32

Summary of minutes of Council meetings held on the 14th, November
or and the 12th, December 1963.

All members of Council were present and the meeting was called to
order with the reading and adoption of previous minutes.

Council authorized the Town Representative, Mr. Kevin Gobles,
to attend the convention of the Stony Plain School Division No.
23 being held on the 27th, November 1963.

The request from Town and Rural Planning for approval of a develop-
ment by M. Lamby south of Highway on S.E. 1/4 5-49-7-W and
Q-45-7-W was affirmed since this development put forward had
already been completed prior to receipt of request.

It was decided to obtain further information with regard to the new
Municipal Police proposal put forward by the Provincial Govern-
ment this past year.

Authorization was given to give first reading to By-Law No. 301
for the rezoning of Lot "A" Block 39 Plan 657025 to High Den-
sity Residential class.

On recommendation of the
Waterworks Superintendent ap-
proval was given to re-route the
water line from Block 27, via
the street rather than Block 39

As a follow up to investigation
of traffic problems on 5th Ave.
west in the location of Block
Store Council directed that
Speed Zone signs be erected
to the west of this location to
control more adequately the
traffic coming up to this con-
gested portion of roadway.

The report on the Auction Sale
of Land for Areas of Taxes
was accepted as submitted.

Rudi Menckel was given per-
mission to attend the Operator's
School being held in Edmonton
on the week of 18th to 27th,
January, 1964

As may be noted in the Public
Notice on page 2, the Town of
Drayton Valley office will be
on at noon-time for certain
periods for the payment of
water bills.

New Year's Baby



Born on New Year's Day, wee Betty Jean Sheridan weighed 5 pounds
14 ounces on arrival in Drayton Valley Municipal Hospital. Betty
Joan is the daughter of Bill and Betty Sheridan, of Round Valley.
She arrived in a household where eight other children had arrived
previously, her five sisters and three brothers range in age from one
to sixteen years. The Sheridans have farmed in the Round Valley
district for the past ten years. Len Sheridan is closer to Mr. Jim
Thompson, also of the Round Valley district.

Announce winners in 'Light-up-for-Christmas' campaign

Judges for the Annual Chamber of Commerce awards for Christmas
Lighting and Decorations were the Rev. Ingram, the Rev. Sader,
The Rev. Semaksson and the Rev. Stayer. They state that they
were very impressed by the additional number of lighting effects
this year, better than any previous year was the verdict of all
concerned. Judging was not easy, as there were many very excel-
lent displays. All told this year's 'Lightup' is rated as top quality.

Winners are as follows: 1st. Prize: Lorne Nelson; 2nd. Prize: Herb-
ert Denson and, Prince, L. Hank Shimbashi. A large number
also received Honorable Mention. These included: Barber's Trans-
port, Arthur Robinson, S.C. Leman, P. Nebo, J. Mackay, Al Home
and S.S. McLean.

Curling Club

Regular Men's Curling resumed
at the Club with great en-
thusiasm, after a layoff of
nearly 3 weeks. Teams are
again divided into sections
and will be playing for troph-
ies sponsored by the Club.

This weekend will see 6 rinks
playing off for the right to re-
present Drayton Valley in the
Zone 16 playoffs which will
be held in Whitecourt on the
24 and 25 of January. Team
entered so far are Stan Kon-
dratik, Al Casey, Archie
Griffith, Gary Bennett, Buck
Bondy, Ron Wolfe and H.
Shimbashi.

Also we will see Drayton
Valley represented in the
Season Playoffs by former
Skipper Champion W.W. (Bilby)
Roe. This will be the first
time that Drayton Valley has
been represented playing with
Roe will be Ed Tordoff as
Third, Amos Lloyd as Second
and John MacKenzie as Lead.
I predict that they will be pla-
ying in the 16 zone final in
early February. They will
be playing off at Whitecourt
this weekend against rinks
in Zone 16 which runs from
Jasper to Spruce Grove.

(Cont. on Page 10, Col. 3)

OPEN HOUSE

Town Secretary-Treasurer W.G. Jehannetson
announced recently that the Municipal As-
sessor will be holding Open House in the Town
Hall on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of this year.
Between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

The purpose of the Open House is to enable
taxpayers to become better acquainted with
assessment matters as they relate to the par-
ticular sphere of municipal taxation of each
one.

Everyone is invited to take advantage of this
Open House and to visit Town Hall then.



The Oil industry has fashioned the thinking of our community. Here
we see two evidences of it. One the foot cleaner with valve on top
(our city Mexican Well Servicing) at the entrance to the Curling
Rink, and the other the well-known derrick in front of Town Hall.

DRAYTON VALLEY'S LOW PRICE STORE

FOOD SUPERMARKET

SPECIALS EFFECTIVE THURS., FRI., & SAT. JAN. 9, 10, 11.

GRAPEFRUIT

Plump, fragrant, "hefty" with juice!

8 FOR 59¢

TOMATOES TUBES **29¢**

FRESH AND FIRM

CARNATION INSTANT MILK - 3 LB. **99¢ pkgs.**

TOMATO JUICE 4 TINS FOR **79¢**

LIBBYS 20 oz. TINS

Pork and Beans 5 FOR **\$1.00**

LIBBYS 16 oz. TINS

DOG FOOD PERKY 15 oz. TINS **10 for \$1.**

COFFEE 69¢ 1 lb.

LIMIT 2 LBS. WITH \$5.00 ORDER REGULAR GRIND

FREEZER SPECIALS

BEEF SIDES 44¢ LB. FRONT QUARTERS 36¢ LB.

PORK SIDES 37¢ LB. CUT, WRAPPED AND DELIVERED

Sausages Beef **29¢** lb.

Only during Sealy's 83rd Anniversary Sale

Sealy

Only during Sealy's 83rd Anniversary Sale

FIRM 83rd ANNIVERSARY

Guaranteed in sets till 1974

This mattress was especially created for Sealy's Anniversary celebration... with extra luxury features plus the same guarantee that's found on a Sealy mattress priced at \$69.50. Great buy, great guarantee... save on this budget-priced quality mattress today!

- Smooth latex-foam surface; pre-built backbone for support
- Exclusive Sealy Edge Guards prevent sagging edges
- Hundreds of specially tapered in-spring coils
- Heavy quality rayon damask cover

KEY GUARANTEED 10 YEARS / If at any time you are dissatisfied, we will replace it free of charge.

Made by the makers of **POSTUREPEDIC**. No morning backache from sleeping on a foam-mattress method.

Budget Term

Lowest Financing Rates

Hyndson's Day Company

The Chapel Hour

Written Guarantee

By Charles A. Neal

Taken from Good Business

What will the coming year hold for you? Is it going to be a good year, one filled with deep satisfaction and a sense of achievement? Or is it going to be a year of misfortune? You may say, "How do I know? I hope it will be a good year, but I have no way of knowing how it will turn out."

Without having recourse to a soothsayer or a crystal ball, we can tell how the year will turn out. In fact, there is a way in which we can insure that it will be a good year. These may sound like bold words, but they are true. For we have a written guarantee.

There was a man whom we will call Dick Smith, who approached every New Year with great dread. It seemed that so far every year of his adult life had been full of disappointments and troubles, in which each succeeding year was worse than the preceding year. So by mid-November he was already apprehensively looking ahead to see where the next year could go wrong.

He was discussing his fears with a friend when he finally burst out emotionally, "Jack, I dread to think what can happen next year with this change in my company management and my being shifted to a new territory."

His friend murmured sympathetically, "Dick, you sure are in for a bad time. I'm certainly glad I'm not in your shoes." Then he added with a slowly broadening smile, "But as for me, I've just had a good year, and now I'm going to have the best year yet." And he sat beaming at his troubled friend.

Dick was so startled by Jack's supreme confidence that for a moment he forgot his own trouble. "Why, that's wonderful, Jack. Have you got a new line? What makes you so sure?"

"For heaven's sake," gasped Dick, "who on earth would give you a guarantee like that? One of your suppliers? It must be a phony. There must be a catch to it."

"There's no catch. The guarantee is given to me by my own Chief Supplier, and providing I fulfill the one condition that's required for me I must succeed."

There was a moment's pause while Dick digested this, then he asked thoughtfully, "Those conditions you have to fulfill - they must be terrific. I'll bet you had to sell your soul to make the grade." Then he sat back and said, "Your supplier," do you think he and I could do business?"

Jack did not reply immediately, but pulled out his billfold and extracted a small card. Dick took the card and read the typed words: "All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." He turned the card over; the back was blank, so he turned back to read the words a second time, aloud, as if to see if he had missed anything.

He signed and handed the card back to his friend. "Jack, for a moment you had me convinced. I thought you had something really great. But this is only a Bible verse," his voice trailed off disappointedly.

"You know" he continued, "I pray, but nothing much ever seems to happen. It's just the same old set man. I'm always (Cont. on Page 3, Col. 1)

WELCOME LITTLE STRANGERS

Week of December 13 to 21, 1963

Dec. 17 Mrs. Darryl Treisman (Isabel) boy, 6 lbs. 10 3/4 oz. Dec. 18 Mrs. Joseph Frenovitch (Shelia) boy, 6 lbs. 2 oz.

Week of December 22 to 28, 1964

Dec. 22 Mrs. George Cebulak (Cecelia) girl, 7 lbs. 9 1/2 oz. Dec. 23 Mrs. Alan Lyell (David) boy, 8 lbs. 1 oz.

Dec. 24 Mrs. Glen Snow (Frances) boy, 7 lbs. 5 1/2 oz. Dec. 25 Mrs. Ernest Staples (Patricia) boy, 8 lbs. 1 1/4 oz.

Dec. 26 Mrs. Ted Tucker (Evelyn) boy, 9 lbs. 4 1/4 oz. Dec. 27 Mrs. Walter Holman (Rosemary) girl, 7 lbs. 3 1/2 oz.

Dec. 28 Mrs. George Johnson (Frances) boy, 7 lbs. 9 oz. Week of Dec. 29, 1963 to Jan. 4, 1964.

Dec. 30 Mrs. Stuart MacDonald (Helen) girl, 7 lbs. 6 1/2 oz. Jan. 1 Mrs. William Sheridan (Dorothy) girl, 8 lbs. 10 1/2 oz.

Jan. 2 Mrs. Forest Erickson (Margaret) girl, 7 lbs. 14 oz.

LYDD'S JEWELRY

Week of December 15 to 21, 1963

Dec. 17 Mrs. Darryl Treisman (Isabel) boy, 6 lbs. 10 3/4 oz.

Week of December 22 to 28, 1964

Dec. 25 Mrs. Ted Tucker (Evelyn) boy, 9 lbs. 4 1/4 oz.

Mrs. Tucker may drop in at Lydd's Jewelry and pick up her baby spoon.

Week of Dec. 29, 1963 to Jan. 4, 1964.

Mr. C. Mrs. Forest Erickson (Margaret) girl, 7 lbs. 14 oz.

Mr. Erickson may drop in at Lydd's Jewelry and pick up her baby spoon.

I SEE THE LOVE

I see the power of Thy love, Dear Lord, oh yes, I see! Then lovest thou mankind on earth.

Thou lovest even me, Julia Ann Janney

Christian Reformed "BACK TO GOD HOUR"

EVERY SUNDAY - 8:00 A.M. Radio Church - Edmonton

Worship Service each Sunday at 10 A.M. and 7 P.M. Held in basement of the Colloid Ltd. Office. For further information please PHONE: 542-3746.

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rev. G. L. Ingpen, L.T.C.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12. HOLY COMMUNION.....8:30 A.M. MORNING PRAYER.....11:00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION.....7:30 P.M.

Confirmation Classes resume on Thursday, All Saints' Parish Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 23, in the Parish Hall at 8:00 P.M.

EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to

SUNDAY: Divine Worship at 8:30 A.M. & 8 P.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:45 A.M.

Every third Thursday of month, Ladies Aid - 8 P.M. THURSDAY: Junior instruction class after school.

PASTOR - REV. E. STETTER

DRAYTON VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

Rev. Norbert Macdonald

SUNDAY - Sunday School - 9:30 A.M. Morning Worship - 11 A.M. HI - C Group - 7 P.M.

TUESDAY - Signa C - 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY - Epiphany - 4:00 P.M. THURSDAY - 5:45 P.M.

THIRD THURSDAY - Men's Club

DRAYTON VALLEY CHURCH OF GOD

PASTOR - Donald Scott

SUNDAY: Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Morning Worship - 11 A.M. Evening Service - 7:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY: Prayer Meeting - 5:30 P.M. THURSDAY: Children's Choir - 5:45 P.M. Youth Fellowship - 7:30 P.M.

Christian Brotherhood Hour - 9:45 P.M. - Edmonton every Sunday evening from 9 to 9:30 A.M.

Dr. Oshman message is printed each week in "Vital Christianity" a weekly publication of the Church of God.

INTERCOSTAL TABERNACLE

PASTOR - Sader in Charge

SUNDAY - Sunday School - 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship - 11:00 A.M. Evening Service - 7:30 P.M.

TUESDAY - Bible Study and Prayer - 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY - Young Peoples - 7:30 P.M.

ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Scriven

SUNDAY MASS - 8:00 A.M. and 5:30 P.M. TOMORROW - 2nd and 4th Sundays - 11:00 A.M. LORNE - 1st and 3rd Sundays - 11:00 A.M.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Glenn Jamieson, Pastor, Phone: 542-3483

THURSDAY: G.M.C. for girls 8 and up - 7 P.M. FRIDAY: Youth Fellowship at Mansie - 8 P.M.

SUNDAY: Bible School for all Ages - 10 A.M. Morning Worship - 11 A.M. Evening Service - 7:30 P.M.

TUESDAY: Bible Study and Prayer - 8 P.M. (Feb. 9) Services in basement Chapel in Mansie - 60 Ave. and 41 St. Buck Lake Sunday School and Service - Sunday - 8:30 P.M.

Blessing For A Church

This is God's house.

May we who come here not only find out about God, but find God.

May there be beauty in this place, but especially may it be a place where men and women become aware of the beauty in themselves.

May this be a place of worship. May this be a place of instruction. May this be a place of singing. May this be a place of prayer.

But for us who worship and take instruction and sing and pray, may

JAMES DILLET FREEMAN

this always be a place of inner stillness, where we may listen and hear when God speaks.

May whoever ministers here minister in love. May whoever teaches here teach truth. May whoever serves here serve pleasantly.

May everyone come into this house in expectation and go with thanksgiving, and may anyone who comes needing help go feeling blessed.

May this be such a house that Jesus Christ—or any stranger, even one of the least—would feel in it that He was with friends. Amen.



happy new year

To our friends, old and new
we extend New Year greetings
and thank you
most sincerely for
your patronage.

DU ALL OIL TOOL CO LTD

PHONES: 542-8915, 542-9279, 542-3795

May all your plans for the New Year be fulfilled to the utmost...

Roy Burrows Motors Ltd.

Shell Service

Phone 542-3639

NEW YEAR

HAPPY

To all friends and new, our thanks for the opportunity of serving you.

ATLANTIC WIRE LINES LTD.

PHONE: DRAYTON VALLEY, 542-3985

THE CHAPEL HOUR

WRITTEN GUARANTEE
(Cont. from Page 7, Col. 2)

praying for help, but things just get worse.

"Yes, I'm sure you pray," remind the conditions? The guarantee says, in other words, "whatever you pray for you can have, only you'll find believe that you already have whatever it is that you're praying for."

We might well ask ourselves the same question, "Do we believe that we have already been granted the thing for which we are praying?" If not, then here lies the reason for our unmet needs and desires, for our seemingly unanswered prayers.

Man has made the whole subject of prayer into a complex and mystic operation, whereas for Jesus, who spoke the "guarantee" that lack mentioned, prayer was really a very simple thing. Jesus realized that answered prayer depended on the fulfillment of the one important requirement—belief. It seems hard for me to understand the utter simplicity of this simple condition. Only believe the answer is yours, and it will come in manifestation.

It might be argued that if we have a thing already, we would not need to ask for it; we may feel that the very act of asking is an admission that we lack the thing we want. How then can we have a thing, when we so clearly do not have it?

We are instructed to ask. The very act of asking helps us to recognize and unguarantee. The mental act of feeling the request and then speaking it makes, as it were, a mold to be filled by the substance of our thought.

But once having asked, once having made the request, we should recognize that our prayer is already answered in spirit. It is at once in the process of becoming manifest. And it surely will manifest if we believe with all our heart that the prayer is granted. It is believed that brings the invisible idea into tangible shape in the realm of our daily experience. "Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen."

How would you behave if your dearest, dearest, most heartfelt prayer was answered? Surely you would be overjoyed. You would be filled with gratitude and transported with delight. Your heart and mind would be filled with praise and thanksgiving to God for granting you the wonderful gift. Do you behave like this after you have prayed?

If a person has been troubled a long time by a most certain financial commitment, and then receives assurance that a good friend is prepared to assist him to any extent required, that person has a great weight lifted from his mind. Although no a penny has changed hands at that stage he is filled with gratitude. He knows the commitment is met ahead of time. He has absolute faith in his friend, who is a man of considerable substance. All his anxiety disappears. He knows that all will be well. Each day the thought of the approaching commitment causes his mind to be able to think with complete certainty. "Thank goodness that this is as good as paid!"

It never occurs to him to go back time after time to his friend and say, "I'm still worried about the approaching day. I do hope that you will be quite sure to have the money ready when I need it. Please, I implore you, don't let me down."

After receiving the man once his friend might well take offense at a repetition of the anxious request and reply, "It is quite obvious that you don't believe that

GREEN ACRES

EDSON HEALTH UNIT

SABIN PROGRAM IN HEALTH UNIT SHORTLY

Once again the Sabin (oral Polio) Vaccine is being distributed throughout the Edson Health Unit area to the following persons:

SCHOOL CHILDREN
Those who did not receive second dose last year will be receiving them this year. Parents who did not give consent or sign consent cards last year are requested to apply for these at the Health Unit Office. The Vaccine will be given at the school for school children only.

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN
All who have received three doses of Salk vaccine or four doses of Quadruple Vaccine are eligible. These children will be able to obtain their Sabin vaccine at the regular Well-Baby Clinic.

ADULTS
Those who did not receive their second dose last year and those who have had three doses of Salk vaccine or four doses of B14 may obtain their Sabin at the usual Well-Baby Clinic times.

Drayton Valley - Every Wednesday 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.
Lodgipole - First and Third Tuesday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.
Drayton - First Tuesday of the month in basement of Legion Hall from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.
Wildwood - 4th Thursday of the month in West End Motel from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.
Adults and pre-school children from Falkland, Niton and Pease may get their Sabin at Miss Fox's office in Pease on Tuesday January 14th from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Also at Wildwood on Friday, January 25th from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

SWINE VIRUS PNEUMONIA:

The Alberta Veterinary Laboratory have set up a virus unit to investigate virus pneumonia in pigs and other virus diseases in all livestock and poultry.

Although virus pneumonia seldom kills pigs it is often considered to be one of the most serious diseases in the Alberta hog industry. Changes occur in certain portions of the lungs which result in persistent coughing, diminished appetites and poor growth. It is quite possible for a pig suffering from virus pneumonia to take from four to six weeks longer than a normal healthy animal to reach market weight.

Dr. G.R. Whelan, Microbiologist with the Veterinary Services Branch, reports the incidence of virus pneumonia in Alberta is unknown but it is considered to be high. It is often hard to determine whether a herd is infected with virus pneumonia. Many lungs, upon examination, are found to show changes considered to be typical of virus pneumonia and microscopic examinations tend to bear this out.

It is hoped, says Dr. Whelan, that this program will assist in the diagnosis of virus pneumonia in Alberta swine and that it will make us worth while contributors to the overall knowledge of the disease which is responsible for such heavy economic losses to the swine producers.

Donation may still be made for the Condonia Kitchen Shaver for Mary Buchholz.

Rachel Anderson and Loraine Anderson will clean the church for January.

Hostesses were Ann Marie Nickle and Dorothy B. Rendell.

There is reserved in the British Museum an dinosaur which dates back 1300 years before the birth of Christ.

Ship the newspaper ads... before you say... and keep the savings.

Lutheran Church NEWS

The Lutheran Ladies Aid held their regular monthly meeting on December 19. There were 12 members, Paule Stoye and 1 guest present. A discussion followed on "What Christmas Means to Me."

Hospital Visitation for January will be Mary Buchholz, Loraine Anderson, Elsie Hagman, and Dorcas Little.

COOKING MAGIC

Let dry. Touch up with state or oil pigment of the right color mixed with a little varnish. Polish when dry. With a fine paint brush carefully apply a thin coating of white shellac. Let dry. Apply additional coats of shellac until area is filled.

SCRATCHES VANISH
Scratches vanish like magic on old, dried out furniture pieces when the surface are coated with mixture of three parts linseed oil and one part turpentine. Mix thoroughly. Apply with soft cloth.

SPOT ON WALLPAPER
To remove grease spots from wall paper, make a paste of fuller's earth or commercial dry cleaning powder and carbon tetrachloride. Apply thickly to the spot, and then out at the edges beyond the solid area. Let it sit until thoroughly dry, wipe off. If there is a ring left, let some of the powder vigorously into it with your finger. Repeat entire treatment if necessary.

ERASE WALL SPOTS
Keep a large soft rubber or art gum pencil under with your cleaning supplies and use it on painted walls and woodwork marks. It will take the marks off but leave the paint on. Clean the eraser itself by rubbing it on sandpaper.

PAPER STUCK TO THE TABLE?
Newspaper that is stuck to a wood surface will come off easily if a few drops of oil are allowed to soak into the paper. Then rub gently with a clean cloth.

TREAT CHARLOTTE SCARS
To remove a light burn or scorch, treat it for alcohol stain. Compare professional refinishing will be necessary if the burn is severe, but if you have a steady hand you may want to try the following:

Wrap 000-grade steel wool around the end of an orange stick. Rub the burn with the steel wool, being careful not to mar the rest of the surface. Rub with a soft brush as you work, then apply turpentine to the spot with a cotton batting wad.

CHAPEL HOUR CONT....

I will help you when you need it. I'm prepared to be by you and will do so, but if you still have doubts, perhaps you'd better go to some source that you think is more reliable."

We have the oft-repeated assurance in the Bible that if we have faith, whatever we pray for will be given us. Yet in spite of this assurance, we go back to God time after time in an agony of supplication, making it abundantly clear that we do not believe that God has already said yes, because our doubts and fear are the predominant emotions. In the outer, yet we say that our prayers are not answered, it is closer to the truth to say that our fervent fears have bogged fruit instead.

What will the coming year hold for you. You may be sure that you are going to be a good year. If you fear the worst, it will probably happen. But if you ask for and expect a good year - a year in which your every right goes on to be wonderfully and beautifully met - this will be the year. You may believe now nothing very valiant moment that this good is yours.

Take time now to give thanks that this new year is the best ever and it surely will be.

COOKING MAGIC

giving mixture enough time to penetrate grain of the wood. Then wipe oil off with a clean cloth. Complete the job with paste wax and polish.

WHITE HEAT OR WATER MARKS
Rub discolored spots with a soft cloth moistened with camellia oil. Immediately rub vigorous dry and repeat treatment several times if spot persists. Waxes surfaces may only need the old wax removed and a fresh application of wax. None prevention is better than cure; always use coasters and pad under glasses and hot plates to keep marks from forming.

OILED FURNITURE FINISHES
Furniture with an oiled finish is very much the style today. Like all wood finishes, an oil finished piece should be cared for, i.e. kept clean and beautiful. But here lies the problem. Furniture waxes and polishes, as everyone knows, are formulated for the most part, to give furniture a glossy finish. And a high gloss on an oiled finish world, of course, change its appearance drastically.

Stranger to arrive in Modest
But "Does it ever rain here?"

Native: "I wouldn't say it never rains. Remember Noah's Ark when it rained for 40 days and 40 nights? We got a quarter of an inch that time."

He decided to reform. The first week he cut out smoking. The second week he cut out drinking. The third week he cut out women. The fourth week he cut out paper dolls.



"The gas company checked it - and it didn't cost me a penny"

"The serviceman said there'd be no charge. Appliance adjustment is just part of the service."

Many of our Gas Company customers are still surprised to learn that appliance adjustment service costs nothing extra. It is the gas company's way of making sure that your appliances are operating with efficiency and safety.

Efficiency and safety - combined with friendly service and low-cost fuel - these are important reasons why Albertans enjoy the best possible gas service at the lowest possible cost.

NORTHWESTERN UTILITIES LIMITED

Your investor-owned gas utility serving Albertans since 1923

WHAT IS A GIRL?*

by Alan Beck

Little girls are the sweet things that happen to people.
They are born with a little bit of angel-dust about them
And though it wears them sometimes,
There is always enough left to leave your heart —
Even when they are sitting in the mud.
Or crying temperamental tears.
Or peeping up the street in mother's best clothes.
A little girl can be sweeter (and badder) often
Than anyone else in the world.
She can jitter around, and stomp.
And make funny noises that freeze your nerves.
Yet just when you open your mouth, she stands there
Demure with that special look in her eyes.
A girl is innocence playing in the mud.
Beautiful standing on its head.
And Motherhood dragging a doll by the foot.

Girls are available in five colors —
Black, white, red, yellow, or brown.
Yet Mother Nature always manages to select
Your favorite color when you place your order.
They dispense the law of supply and demand —
There are millions of little girls.
But each is as precious as rubies.

God borrows from many creatures to make a little girl.
He uses the song of a bird, the squeal of a pig.
The shabbiness of a mule, the antics of a monkey.
The gracefulness of a gazelle, the cuteness of a cat.
The speed of a gazelle, the dexterity of a fox.
The softness of a kitten, and to top it all off
He adds the mysterious mind of a woman.

A little girl likes new shoes, party dresses.
Small animals, fast grade, roller skates.
The girl must dance, drink, make-believe.
Dancing lessons, ice cream, lullabies, a nook.
Make-up, cans of water, going visiting.
Ice parties, and one boy.
She doesn't care so much for victory.
Boys in general, large dogs, hand-me-downs.
Straight chairs, vegetables, snow suits.
Or staying in the front yard.

She is bluest when you are thinking.
The proudest when she has provoked you.
The busiest at bedtime.
The quietest when you want to show her off.
And the most flirtatious when she absolutely must not
Get the best of you again.

Who else can cause you more grief, joy, irritation.
Solitude, embarrassment, and genuine delight.
Then this combination of Eve, Salome,
And Florence Nightingale?
She can melt up your home, your hair, and your dignity —
Spend your money, your time, and your temper —
Then just when your patience is ready to crack,
Her sunshine peeks through and you've lost again.

Yes, she is a never-ending nuisance.
Just a noisy bundle of mischief.
But when your dreams tumble down and the world is a mess —
When it seems you are pretty much of a fool after all —
She can make you a king when she climbs on your knee
And whispers, "I love you best of all!"

PHOTO BY JACOBS STUDIO, Drayton Valley.



MISS SHEVKEKIN WRITES
FROM HONG KONG
(Cont. from Page 3, Col. 2)

pecially if they have an
aptitude to learn. Education
is so important to them if they
are to have any hope of rising
out of their deplorable state at
all. Yet, in spite of their de-
plorable conditions, they are
so courageous and industrious
They are worth giving a helping
hand.

Once again, thank you, and
God bless you.
Sincerely,
A. Shevkekin.

DONATION MADE

Having previously given Chris-
mas donations to UNICEF, the
Drayton Valley Elementary
School this year decided to
use a more personal contact
in giving their Christmas con-
tributions. They sent a cheque
to Miss Alice Shevkekin, who
was formerly a grade 5 teacher
here.

Miss Shevkekin is now prin-
cipal of a school in Hong Kong.
The funds which the children
of the Elementary School
sent will be distributed among
the needy children as may be
determined best by those in
Hong Kong.

Miss Shevkekin's letter of
Thanks to the Drayton Valley
children may be found on
page 3 of this issue.

CURLING CLUB
(Cont. from Page 1, Col. 2)

The Pre-Xmas Turkey spell
was run off very smoothly
under the capable supervision
of draw master Al Casey, in
the final analysis Dr. H. Salm-
bush won the first event by
beating Orval Gehring, Mac-
Lean of Soda Beach beat Bill
Danish of Lodgepole in the
second event and Howard Cad-
rona beat Doug Barnes in the
final of the third event. The
Club plans to make this an an-
nual event to help fill in the
gap between Xmas and New
Year.

Small Debt Court

Next sitting of the Small Debt
Court will be held on Tuesday,
January 20th, at 10:30 a.m.

Anyone wishing to enter a plea
for debt collection in the
Court may call Mr. Mary Bur-
rows two days before the Court
sitting, or may appear at the
10:30 court. Magistrate Ralph
Zare, of Brantford is conduct-
ing the Small Debt Court.

The record of collections by
Magistrate Zare is very good.
The Court has operated here
for a year now.

About The Picture

This picture by Jacob's
Studio catches some of
the intense devotion
with which children
approach the Christmas
season. Don't I see
Findley, daughter of
Dr. and Mrs. Robert
Findley of Drayton Val-
ley, stands before a
Christmas candle.

WESTERN

1964



WESTERN WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

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All Over The Map

The word "adobe" came from Egypt. Coptic descendants of ancient Egyptians called mud brick "tobey" or "dobeey." Moors transmitted the name to the Spaniards, who ultimately took "adobe" brick-making to the American Southwest where they found the Pueblo Indians erecting apartment houses of plastered mud.

In present-day Alaska, a favorite wedding gift from the bride's parents to the groom is a quarter interest in a privately operated city bus.

South of the 24,000-foot pass between Mount Everest and Lhotse, is called the "world's highest junkyard." The wind-swept, scree-covered slopes are littered with oxygen bottles and other equipment of the American Mount Everest Expedition and previous climbing parties.

Calm herders go to their name from their ability to squeeze into rock piles for foxes and wildcats.

Even the air you breathe might be called a forest product since it is constantly being replenished with oxygen manufactured and exhaled by trees and other green plants.

The trend towards farm amalgamation in Britain is being accelerated. This was emphasized recently by a spokesman of the Country Landowners' Association at a demonstration aimed at helping farmers merge their estates. He said: "It has been obvious for some time that the small, uneconomic unit is going to disappear."

What many people do not realize is the speed at which the larger unit is taking over. Between 1950 and 1960 the number of holdings up to 200 acres in England and Wales dropped by 29,000, while holdings over 200 acres increased by 1,200.

Page Two

Kenya Newest African Nation

Kenya, land of the Mau Mau, is the latest African country to gain untried, or freedom.

Leaders of the former East African, Colony and British Protectorates plan to make it a republic. But for the time being, following independence day on December 12, 1963, it has dominion status.

Kenya straddles the Equator, fronting the Indian Ocean on the south. Its 224,940-square-mile area varies from balmy beaches, bleak deserts, and glacier-topped mountains to fertile green valleys.

MORE DESERT THAN JUNGLE

Kenya is an agricultural nation though much of the land is too dry to farm. The Northern Province, a sun-blasted desert where nomadic tribesmen herd scrawny cattle and swig camel's milk, occupies three-fifths of the country's area.

English settlers and African natives crowd the 16,000-square-mile fertile highlands whose coffee, tea, sisal, and pyrethrum flowers, processed for insecticides, form the basis of Kenya's economy.

Kenya's new leaders face the future with almost no known mineral resources and few industries.

Tourists, drawn by a treasure of wildlife in scenic national parks and reserves, enhance Kenya's economy. Aside from the safari attractions of elephant, lion and rhinoceros, Kenya is the land of the aardvark, gazelle, and other rare mammals with names chiefly known to crossword puzzle addicts.

Tourist facilities are far from rustic. Luxury hotels, drive-in movies, and flower-banked traf-

fic circles mark Nairobi, capital city with a third of a million population. Shoppe specialists in depland handbags, strap-on box ties of zebra skin, and warthog-tusk bottle openers. A few hours from the busy boulevards of Nairobi, visitors may spend an evening in a tree-house equipped with rocking chairs, telephones, and modern plumbing. The attraction is not comfort, however, but to watch antelope and buffalo drink at a waterhole below.

MAN'S FIRST HOME IN KENYA

Kenya has a population of 7,280,000, 98 per cent of whom are African. Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, Kenya's brilliant anthropologist, whose work is supported by the National Geographic, says Kenya may be the original home of man. Today's Africans are split into some 50 tribes, ranging from the sophisticated Kikuyu (inhabitants of the Mau Mau revolt in 1952 to drive out the Europeans) to the blood-drinking, lion-hunting Masai.

Influential minorities of Europeans (46,000), Indians (178,000), and Arabs (39,000) make Kenya a truly multicultural nation. As to the complications of representing fairly and safeguarding the various communities, Kenya's constitution is the longest — 250 pages — in the Commonwealth.

Although British Colonial authorities only recently set a date for Kenya's freedom, the Kikuyu had a good idea of when it would be. Mugo Kikuyu, the tribe's prophet, predicted 70 years ago that a sacred fig tree near Nairobi would fall on independence day. Recently the tree was struck by lightning, and has been rapidly decaying ever since.

Roof-Thatching Craft Revives

Be it ever so humble, a thatched cottage is becoming a luxury in England.

Consequently, a postwar decline in the art of thatching has been reversed. The country's 750 craftsmen are hard pressed to meet the demand for their highly skilled services.

The price of emphatic rusticity now comes high. A roof of Norfolk reeds, the most durable covering, costs up to 400 pounds (\$1,120), but it will last 60 to 80 years if maintained properly. Devon reed remains intact for 25 to 40 years, wheat straw 10 to 20.

Whatever the material, a topping of mud, thick, tawny, well-laid thatch will keep a cottage cooler in summer and warmer in winter, admirers say, than factory-made roofing.

FOUR MILLION REEDS

A master thatcher needs deft fingers, perhaps two months of time, and some four million reeds or straw cut in five-foot lengths to cover a cottage of average size. His tools are tried and true — mallet, trimming knife, sheep shears, and a leggett which looks something like a lacrosse stick and is used to beat the bundles of thatch into place.

One present difficulty is getting enough thatch. English farmers are abandoning long-stemmed wheat in favor of a high-yield, short variety. There are plenty of reeds; but as the London Sunday Times has observed, Norfolk cut reeds will stand knee-deep in icy water with northeasterly winds blowing in their faces.

Though a thatched cottage is possibly the most charmingly becoic residence ever created by man, thatching in early England was merely a matter of making do with materials at hand, the National Geographic Society reports. A small landowner built his home of local stone or brick, thatched with wood from his forests,

and topped with reeds or straw grown in the same county.

The British scholar Palgrave, tutor of Henry VIII's daughter Mary, wrote poetically in 1530, "I am but a poor man, sythe I can not tye my house, I must be fayne to thatche it."

Colonists brought thatching, essentially an English art, to the New World. They laid thatched roofs over log cabins and split-board huts. But America's weather was harsh, and thatching never really caught on.

AUSTERITY BROUGHT DECLINE

In England, the proud craft was handed from father to son century after century. It went into a decline and seemed doomed — except for replacement of thatches on historical landmarks such as Anne Hathaway's cottage — when England entered a period of threadbare roofs became rare in places where they had been a feast for the eyes. It was not uncommon to see fine old thatches shamelessly patched with sheets of corrugated iron.

The British Government did much to save thatching with an apprenticeship program which attracted young recruits to the trade. The British Rural Industries Bureau estimates the present number of thatched cottages at 50,000 to 60,000. Craftsmen have waiting lists of customers.

Many thatchers live peacefully nomadic lives, moving from job to job in comfortable house trailers. One thatching family has become so prosperous that the father drives a Rolls-Royce, the son a Jaguar.

The thatching trade urges householders to give their expensive new rooftops loving care. One professional firm, in a brochure for customers, says, "If you possess a good thatch, do be fair to it. It is up to you!"

Western Weekly Supplement — Wednesday, Jan. 8, 1964

Along Nature's Trails

By W. Phillip Keller

Black Bear Not Always Black He Ranges from Coast to Coast

PHILLIP KELLER

The name, "Black Bear" is really quite misleading. Some so-called "Black Bears" are brown, blue-grey, cinnamon, tawny or even albino white. I have taken photographs of an immense black sow with her twin cubs both of which were a light amber color that sparkled like clover honey. I have photographed another sow with twin cubs, one of which was coal black and the other saddle brown.

A more appropriate name would be the "short-clawed bear" since this species is characterized by short, sharp, rounded claws. The black bear makes use of these in his nimble tree-climbing adventures. By contrast the Grizzly Bear has very long, slender claws which are continually worn down with his energetic digging. Because of this the grizzly does not climb trees. Whenever one sees the tracks of these two bears on the trail they can be readily distinguished by the presence or absence of the long claw marks.

WIDELY DISTRIBUTED

For his size and scale the Black Bear is by far the most widely distributed big game animal in North America. He ranges from coast to coast in Canada and can be found in all but half a dozen states south of the border. This is an amazing fact when we stop to consider the spread of towns, industries and highways on every hand.

It is an astonishing thing to think that animals of this size can flourish in small patches of forest, swamps and broken country tucked away amid farms, factories and the frenzy of human activity. To fully understand how this is done it is necessary to know something of their life habits.

In sharp contrast to the grim, aloof grizzly which generally abhors man, the Black Bear is a most comical, sociable creature. He has been called the "clown of the woods." This theatrical vein that runs through his make-up has stood him in good stead in adjusting his life to that of encroaching civilization.

Anyone who has ever travelled in our national parks is bound to have been struck by the utter suds and somewhat human antics of black bears. They will sit at the roadside for hours awaiting handouts from indulgent tourists. Some become skilled artists in acting the part of pan-handlers who wheedle fruit, sandwiches and sweets of all sorts from their admiring audience.

Some, of course, adopt more direct methods and make forthright raids on cabins, tents, trailers, cars and picnic baskets.

I had one very amusing episode, with an immense black bear in Jasper one fall. At dawn I slipped down to the lake to wash. The British Rural Industries Bureau estimates the present number of thatched cottages at 50,000 to 60,000. Craftsmen have waiting lists of customers.

Many thatchers live peacefully nomadic lives, moving from job to job in comfortable house trailers. One thatching family has become so prosperous that the father drives a Rolls-Royce, the son a Jaguar.

The thatching trade urges householders to give their expensive new rooftops loving care. One professional firm, in a brochure for customers, says, "If you possess a good thatch, do be fair to it. It is up to you!"

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As I came back over the brow of the hill overlooking my car, there to my astonishment was the old fellow up on top of the trunk. He had his claws hooked under the edge of the trunk lid heaving mightily to try and pry it open.

I was a second or two late to photograph him in that position. A moment later he jumped down beside the car and I have a fine picture of him standing erect beside it, one arm nonchalantly flung over the roof as though he owned the entire outfit.

The other side of a bear's make-up is equally interesting. In areas where they are hunted and harried they become cunning, clever individuals of exceeding wit. There are very few creatures of their size that can move through the bush as swiftly or silently. I recall vividly trying to photograph a bear down in a swamp. It turned out there were eight bears in that small patch of dense growth. They scurried and swept through the tangled trees and brush like so many dark phantoms, making photography utterly impossible, though very exciting.

NOT HARMLESS CLOWNS

There is a common fallacy in many people's



thinking regarding bears. They seem to think they are all clowns or at least harmless ham actors. Actually people are injured every year by Black Bears which have become aroused when teased or frightened. Some of them acquire a chip on their shoulder from the time they are cubs. Because of this there is always the possibility of running into a "toughie."

Four years ago I encountered one such character in the Mount Revelstoke National Park. I had done nothing to offend him, but he threatened me again and again, growling menacingly while beating the ground with his fore paws. Had I not been familiar with wild animals and stood my ground, he would certainly have jumped me for a mauling, if I had turned to run or escape.

It is because of this somewhat unpredictable make-up that park authorities have become increasingly strict about prohibiting the public from feeding bears.

The array of material that bears will eat comprises a rather formidable list. Here is just a sampling — berries of all sorts, fruits of all kinds, grass, clover, mare's tail, nuts, seeds, sodas, honey, ants, grasshoppers, frogs, fish, squirrels, marmosets and meat of almost any kind whether fresh or stale.

If a Black Bear discovers a supply of fruit, berries, or bee hives that tickle his taste buds, he will go to great lengths to satisfy his sweet tooth. I have known bears to return night after night to the apple trees in an abandoned orchard; the same is true of a hive of bees — mauling to the bee keeper's chagrin.

The manner in which bears harvest much

small fruit as blue berries is worthy of mention. I have watched a bear weighing about 300 lbs. sit down, to harvest a cluster of blue berry bushes. Reaching out with an arm he would crook it around the bushes and draw them toward him, stripping off all the leaves and fruit in one deft motion. These he simply lapped up off his arm. Other times the bushes will be drawn directly through the mouth to be consumed in vast quantities.

THEY ARE "LONE WOLVES"

Most of the time bears are solitary in their habits — unless, of course, the sow has cubs with her, or a group of bears are attracted to a garbage dump. The bears and sows only come together for a few weeks in the early summer when mating takes place.

The cubs, which are very small indeed, are born in mid winter, while the sow is in hibernation. She suckles them in her den, and the full family does not emerge until well into spring.

The sow has to be very alert indeed during this period of their early exploration of their new wilderness world. Even an aggressive bear may try to pick up an unprotected cub as a tasty treat for himself.

The sow has to teach the cubs strict discipline for at the best of times they are hilarious, harum scarum rascals who delight in all kinds of devilment. If real danger threatens she will send them scurrying up a tree double the quick time to save their skins while she stands guard at the base.

I came across two cubs clinging to the very topmost branches of a fir tree in the Kootenay Valley one evening. Evidently the old bear was determined to get one, for the sow had worked herself into a frenzy driving him off again and again as he approached the tree. Meanwhile the cubs were crying pitifully as the old bear growled, snarled and chased about in the bush below.

The cubs generally play with the sow for two summers, after that they are on their own. Normally they look for mates during the third year.

Bears travel over fairly large areas to find food for themselves. Grizzlies are notorious for wandering, but even a solitary old Black Bear will cover a territory of over 200 square miles in a summer season.

When fall approaches they become fat with feasting on fruit, nuts and fish where these are available. Then they go to den in some suitable spot that meets their needs. I know of one old Blackie that spent most of his winters sleeping under the railway roundhouse in Jasper.

Because the Black Bear can be such a clever, cute, adaptable, cunning critter, he is likely to linger long in the annals of our animal life on this continent.

Copyright 1963 by W. Phillip Keller

This Week's Cover Picture

It's a New Year and Elaine Peim of Kimberley, B.C., is the charming young lady making the introduction. She is smiling into the lens of Charles Worthington's camera. There is a thrilling sense of anticipation as each new year starts — it can, and likely will, bring many unexpected things. This one is a Leap Year which brings the traditional open season on bachelors.

Page Three

It's A Tough Battle-Humans vs. Beavers

By IRENE SCOTT
Vancouver, B.C.

Paddy the Beaver — does that expression conjure up pictures of a good, industrious little animal? He is always hard at work building dams, thereby preserving pasture lands and water supplies. His boundless energy and enthusiasm are symbolized in our common complimentary expression, "an eager beaver". Beavers, protected because they are so valuable, never do anything harmful.

Well, that was our idea until very recently. Most people share it, we know, because they are horrified when we suggest that beavers can be a destructive nuisance. And if the people to whom we are talking have read Eric Collier's best seller, "Three Against the Wilderness," we immediately become social outcasts. Don't we know that beavers restored the fertility of the Chilcotin area of British Columbia? We try to be charitable but it sometimes stretches our patience.

IT LOOKED IDEAL

Over a year ago we searched far and wide for a little bit of lakeshore property. All we wanted was a fraction of an acre on which to pitch a tent, then build a log cabin. We found a lovely spot. It was a water-front lot on a beautiful lake not many miles from a main paved highway. The lake was stocked with trout. It was safe for the children's swimming and boating. Our water supply would be assured by a bubbling spring, and though the evergreens had been logged off, our privacy and shade would be supplied by a grove of shimmering poplars.

We thought we had found the ideal summer retreat. There was one catch — the price. It was higher than we had counted on, and understandably so, considering all that the property had to offer. Once you have seen the ideal it is very hard to settle for less. All the following winter we talked and dreamed of that lake-front property. We did something even more practical — we saved our money. We planned to go back, take one more look, then buy.

We went back, took one look, and nearly collapsed. While we had been dreaming and saving, beavers had been working. There was a beaver lodge on our lake-front, and the whole shoreline was blocked by fallen trees, or rather felled trees. Toothmarks proved that. The lot next to the one we called ours had been sold

and apparently the owner had been back, seen the damage to ours, and acted. There was tarpaper tacked around the base of every poplar, but there were some downed trees too, and bits of shredded tarpaper. The protection seemed dubious.

THEY'RE BUSY WOODSMEN

We came back to the city with our cheque book intact, feeling very disappointed. We got out library books on beavers to learn their ways but the more we read the more discouraged we became. One beaver normally chews down 200 to 300 trees a year, which averages four to six a week.

There is usually a litter of young born each spring, and the young from two litters live with their parents. So every spring after the second mating there are two year old beavers leaving home to begin a lodge or lodges of their own. And those beavers would have a litter each spring, and in two years' time their offspring would leave home, build a lodge and have a litter. . . . Even supposing that our beavers were on a diet or had bad teeth — say they cut only 100 trees each a year. . . . Oh we became frantic by day and sleepless by night counting falling trees!

Finally we found the place to which we should have gone immediately, our provincial government's Department of Recreation and Conservation. We had thought from the name that they too would be against us however that was not the case at all.

To these experts "conservation" does not mean straight "preservation". At last somebody understood both our feelings and our problem. We found to our joy that humans, as well as animals, have some rights. A landowner whose property is being destroyed or seriously damaged can get special permission to trap beavers.

Sometimes there are too many beavers in a certain area and that was the current situation in our chosen district. Ordinarily each registered trapper traps a given number, depending on how scarce or how plentiful they are in his area. Lately, because of the vagaries of fashion, the price of the pelts has been so low that the trappers have not bothered to take their quotas. Hence, too many beavers, and especially one lodge too many for us.

We discover too that we were not the only ones to have a beaver problem. From the Atlantic to the Pacific various Departments of Public



Tarpaper seemed to give dubious protection.

Works and both transcontinental railroads are continually making complaints about flooded roads or railways. Beavers, energetic though they may be, are lazy enough, or smart enough, to favour culverts as prefabricated dam foundations.

When a complaint is received from any quarter, and the damage verified, quick action usually follows. If possible the beavers are live-trapped. Part of their dam is broken and a steel cage is set in the break. The beavers rush in without their usual caution in order to repair their dam and the cage closes upon them. Then, unharmed, they are transported to a game refuge or to an area where beavers are in short supply.

Even in Saskatchewan, often thought of as only a flat bare wheat producing province, there are beavers. The northern part, full of woods and lakes, is ideal for them. But these beavers are as carefully controlled as the wheat harvest. The Administrator of the Wildlife Branch of the Department of Natural Resources writes from Prince Albert:

"Our aims or hopes are to keep a substantial beaver population in line with feed conditions, or in other words, to harvest on a sustained yield basis."

In the mid-40's, Saskatchewan harvested some 400 beavers; we have now brought the harvest up to well over 50,000. We hope to be able to manage this renewable resource and keep it at this satisfactory level."

New Brunswick reports that it was the water supply stored up by beaver dams that

(Continued on Page 5)



The Beavers were busy, indeed!



Mesh trap catches beavers unharmed.

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The Western Farm Scene

History is Made By Alberta Farmers With Co-Op Seed Cleaning Plants

Alberta's Municipal Co-Operative Seed Cleaning Plants in 1963 made both performance records and agricultural history by handling and cleaning over ten million bushels of grain for seed.

Not long ago I witnessed the birth of one of those co-operative ventures. It was at a banquet in a small Central Alberta town and both farm people and urban dwellers were present.

A speaker mentioned that one-quarter of the seed used in farm fields of the district in the previous spring would fall in a "rejected" grade. The observation was based on samples taken from seed drills.

People present appeared somewhat shocked at the report and almost at once, the chairman made a strong plea for community action, maintaining the provincial policy by which farmers could obtain financial assistance to get a proper cleaning plant.

It was evident that members of the local Chamber of Commerce were just as enthusiastic as the farmers about the prospect of an efficient cleaning plant for the district. They figured, very properly, that it was beneficial for the farmers to be planting good and clean seed, it would be good for town business as well. Somebody quoted Scripture: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

SUBSCRIBE ONE THIRD

It would cost about \$51,000 to build a plant and equip it with the most up-to-date machinery. If the farmers would subscribe share capital amounting to \$17,000 or one-third of the total amount needed, municipal and provincial governments could be expected to provide grants to meet the remaining two-thirds.

The banquet meeting in question was on January 20, 1961. Farmers, recognizing the importance of better seed than many of them had been using, subscribed their portion of the needed capital; municipality and Provincial Department of Agriculture made their matching grants and a building contract was awarded.

Before the end of the year, the new plant was completed and ready for operation, another monument to co-operative vigor. A year later, a town business man said it was the community's pride effort.

On August 7, 1963, Alberta's 50th co-operative seed cleaning plant was opened officially at Gibsons, north of Edmonton, with Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Harry Strom, present to recognize it as a notable landmark in the still-new network of units now capable of cleaning well over half of the seed planted annually in the province.

QUALITY IS IMPROVED

It's not just a case of farmers saving themselves the toll of cleaning seed at home by the older and slower methods. At one time, every progressive farmer owned a fanning mill of a kind operated by hand crank — generally a noisy contraption which consumed long hours of monotonous labor in the months preceding seedtime. Then came the luxury of gasoline or electric motors to drive the familiar fanning mills but, too often, the quality of the cleaning left much to be desired and shrunken seeds

and weed seeds found their way into the cultivated soil.

Farmers could not, as individuals, afford the big and high-priced machines which could make miraculous separation of good seeds and impurities of one kind or another.

Farmers began to speculate about the possibility of building community cleaning plants, as well as for weed seed removal. The first co-operative plants were more or less in the nature of experiments.

But the results were good. Farmers found themselves planting better seed and getting better harvests. Moreover, the cost of cleaning was smaller than had been anticipated. The idea became quickly popular and the co-operative plants appeared in widely scattered points in the province. In 1962, proclaimed World Seed Year by the Food and Agriculture Organization, the co-operative plants in Alberta handled 9,885,000 bushels. And in 1963, the operations were still bigger, going well beyond the ten millions.

BARLEY CLEANED FOR TRADE

The actual figures for 1963 operations showed 11,155,320 bushels of grain received for cleaning and 10,209,731 bushels planted from that quantity. In accounting for the difference of almost a million bushels, provincial workers list malting barley cleaned for the trade and dockage which was available for local feeding.

It is noted that only about one per cent of the total seed cleaned during the year was offered as a "pedigreed". The explanation was that most pedigreed seed is handled and cleaned by the big commercial seed companies distributing it.

MORINVILLE THE LARGEST

It's not to be expected that community cleaning plants will operate steadily throughout the year; at some seasons there will be little or no call for services and at other times it may be necessary to run 24 hours per day. For 1963, the average volume of seed cleaned

By Grant MacEwan

History is Made By Alberta Farmers With Co-Op Seed Cleaning Plants

per plant was 232,400 bushels. It was the fourth successive year in which average plant output increased.

Once again, it was the plant at Morinville which showed the largest operation in terms of clean seed. Another plant handled a larger volume of grain but with a higher percentage of dockage, the output of clean seed was actually lower.

The Morinville plant, in operation since 1949, has made provincial records many times. This recent year was the first, however, in which Morinville or any other Alberta plant managed to clean over half a million bushels of grain.

The treating of seed grain for disease control is an added service offered by the co-operative plants and, in recent years, about one-third of the grain handled has been treated with fungicides and roughly five per cent with chemicals for the prevention of wireworm damage.

It's a Tough Battle

(Continued from Page 4)

enabled firefighters in the north western part of that province to bring a disastrous forest fire under control.

And so from coast to coast beavers are potential assets or liabilities. It was encouraging to know that our personal beaver problem was not unique but that did not replant those chewed down poplars. We debated the situation. Suppose we bought the property and disposed of the squatters. As absentee owners we would be wary of all the time about our trees. We could plant more trees. If we planted the faster growing poplars they would attract beavers again, yet if we planted the safer evergreens they would grow too slowly for our purpose.

We finally decided to leave that one perfect bit of lakeshore to the beavers, but certainly not for humanitarian reasons. There are two sides for everything, we maintain, even to beavers!

It Really Happened...

By WILLIAM GRASLUK
Therby, Alberta

Back in 1907 the infant village of Stony Plain, Alberta, just west of Edmonton, had a tax collection problem. Taxes were simply not coming in. The wealthiest non-payer was the Canadian Northern Railway. Israel Umbach, Stony Plain's tax collector, had written several letters to the Winnipeg office of the railway but no payments came.

This was intolerable for Mr. Umbach. How could he pry taxes out of ordinary people when the rich railway paid no attention to his demands? He determined to take direct action and to heck with time-consuming court proceedings.

One morning as an incoming Canadian Northern train whistled on its approach to Stony Plain, Umbach picked up the largest logging chain and padlock in Oppenheimer's hardware store. Running over to the station, he bent down and wound the heavy chain around the drive

wheels of the locomotive that had just pulled to a stop, looping the chain under the rails and snapping the big padlock shut.

The bug-eyed engineer, fireman and train crew demanded that Umbach get that chain off right now. They opined it was a criminal matter to interfere with a railway.

Mr. Umbach gave his long moustache a triumphant twist with one hand. In pungent Western words he told the train crew that their train was now impounded and impounded it would stay until the company agreed to pay the taxes it owed Stony Plain.

The flabbergasted conductor hurriedly wired the railway's headquarters in Winnipeg.

The reply soon came ticking back as an excited group stood around the telegrapher. It read:

"Inform Sheriff Stony Plain sorry. Taxes forthcoming. Never heard tell of such railroading here in Winnipeg."

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